

Remarks of the Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
To the Joint Meeting of the Senate Finance, House Appropriations and House Finance
Committees
Richmond
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FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Thank you.

Chairman Stosch, Chairman Putney, Chairman Purkey, Members of the General Assembly and money committees, ladies and gentlemen: Good morning and welcome. I salute Chairman Putney and Chairman Purkey for 80 years of combined excellent service to the Commonwealth. We will miss you.

Each year at this time, we assemble so that I can brief you on the budget bill that will be introduced for the next Session. For me, this year is somewhat different because my term expires in 26 days. Governor-elect McAuliffe and you will remain to evaluate this budget. I trust that all of the recommendations I make today will be unanimously approved by both houses when I'm gone!

The fact that I will not be governor when you deliberate upon my introduced budget presents an institutional challenge. I do hope that at some point Virginia's unusual election-budget development cycle will be fixed to end the awkward practice of the outgoing governor putting forward a brand new two-year budget. This is not the point where an outgoing governor would usually embark on major, new programs, but rather a time to solidify past policy initiatives. My budget makes room for both!

With a transition, there is a need to strive for structural balance so there are no major holes or hidden obligations. It is also a period to concentrate on core public services. Finally, since transition involves change, the budget must be flexible enough to accommodate adjustments in priorities, without doing harm to the many meritorious investments that have produced solid results for the public.

We have talked many times about the "Virginia Way" by which we govern. We analyze and debate budget and policy issues passionately but civilly. Then we find common ground and solve problems. The Virginia Way is one of sharing credit for getting positive results for the good of our people. Eight million people are counting on the Virginia Way continuing!

This approach is especially important today when my introduced budget is handed off to a governor-elect of a different party. Accomplishments and progress require statesmanship in both branches of government.

I hope you will find the "Virginia Way" at work in these budget recommendations. The major spending recommendations focus on the core public services which lead to prosperity. They also decrease our reliance on budgetary gimmicks that helped in the past but run counter to

structural balance and sound financial judgment. You will also find a fair amount of embedded caution, given the global economic and national political uncertainty.

We are in a different position today than when I started in January 2010.

Then we faced a \$1.8 billion shortfall for the remainder of fiscal year 2010, and another \$4.2 billion shortfall for the 2010-2012 biennium. Through our joint efforts to adopt conservative revenue forecasts, reform burdensome bureaucracy, promote efficiency, dramatically reduce spending, and incentivize state employees to save, we turned those shortfalls into four consecutive revenue and savings surpluses totaling a Virginia record of nearly \$2.0 billion over the past four years. Thank you!

Through our government reform efforts, 36 boards and commissions, as well as nine agencies, have either been eliminated or consolidated as we re-structured government to make it more effective.

We have worked together to fix what many thought to be “unfixable,” especially the two major challenges of infrastructure and pension liabilities that the bond rating agencies consistently raised as concerns when we traveled to New York each year.

We reformed our state retirement system in 2012 to reduce unfunded liabilities by \$9 billion, and guarantee that the system remains solvent.

This year we made a generational investment in our transportation infrastructure system so that commerce can thrive and people can travel safely. The 54% increase in transportation spending is putting people back to work, and helping them get there faster.

We have also taken dramatic steps to assimilate persons in training centers with intellectual disabilities back into a community treatment setting. After discussing this for decades, we are finally taking action!

We have taken major strides to reform and better fund our public education and higher education systems to improve workforce and increase access to the American dream. Our K-12 reforms will help insure that every child, regardless of background or zip code, has access to a good teacher in a good school. Our higher education reinvestment initiatives are making college more affordable and accessible. Including the recommendations I am proposing today, we will invest nearly \$600 million in new general fund money in higher education during my term.

Our collective achievements are strong. But we must always stay focused on a chief objective: helping the private sector create more good-paying jobs for our citizens.

Virginia is a friend of the free market, small business owners and job creators, as noted by CNBC, the US Chamber of Commerce, and, just recently, by Forbes.com which named Virginia America’s “Best State for Business.”

Since 2010, our unemployment rate has dropped from 7.4 to 5.6 percent, the lowest rate in the Southeast, and the third-lowest east of the Mississippi. Over 172,000 net new jobs have been created.

Some of this success is due to our targeted economic development policies with more than \$120 million in incentives and tools you supported in the past three years. Together, we have helped the private sector create new jobs.

As we look ahead at this next budget, the consensus opinion from the Joint Advisory Board of Economists (JABE) and the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates (GACRE) for the Virginia economy was one of caution, because of the unprecedented uncertainty surrounding federal fiscal policy and its disproportionate impact on Virginia.

Both groups noted that the pace of economic expansion has remained quite modest due in part to the government shutdown and volatile budget and debt ceiling negotiations. Current national data suggest that Virginia is expected to grow slower than the nation as a whole. If the debt ceiling debate is settled and a long-term national fiscal plan is put in place, growth should begin to accelerate- but that's, as always, a big IF.

After reviewing the Tax Department forecast, and incorporating the opinions of JABE and GACRE, we are adopting the standard minus revenue forecast for the budget. It adds \$29.1 million to total revenue in fiscal year 2014 and raises growth from 1.5 percent to 1.7 percent. Revenue growth of 4.2 percent is expected in fiscal year 2015 and 3.9 percent in fiscal year 2016. For the 2014-2016 biennium, total general fund revenues and transfers are projected to be \$37.7 billion, including the beginning balance of \$536.5 million. For those, like me, tracking state general fund spending growth, from the pre-recession year of FY2007 to the end of the biennium in FY 2016, spending will have increased \$1.9 billion, or an average of just 1.2% per year!

Also, because of our decision to use caution and flexibility, I have left an unappropriated balance in the general fund of \$50.9 million, just in case you have any spending ideas of your own! Merry Christmas! This is the largest unappropriated balance in an introduced budget bill since 1991 when Governor Wilder took the first steps toward establishing the Rainy Day Fund.

My budget recommendations also continue our four-year effort to capture efficiencies and repurpose existing resources. In October, I asked agencies to submit 4% savings strategies because its good management practices, and in response to problems in Washington. The ideas generated by agencies yielded \$10 million in general fund budget savings and over \$23 million in general fund resources over fiscal years 2014- 2016.

Additionally, my budget recommendations incorporated another \$261 million in targeted savings to various programs over that same three year period. I have again included a performance bonus payment of up to 3% to state employees before Christmas 2014, contingent upon both satisfactory employee performance, and realizing savings and efficiencies equal to twice the cost of the bonus. This policy worked very well in 2010 and 2012 to reward our great state employees for their fiscal stewardship.

Here are some of the specific details of our other budget recommendations.

K-12 Education

Building on our constitutional obligation to ensure that every child has access to a high quality public education, I am including \$582.6 million in increased funding for the biennium for K-12 and pre-kindergarten education. This includes \$38.0 million in anticipated additional Lottery profits each year.

We have made great strides over the last four years to increase educational opportunities by funding college lab schools, charter schools and virtual schools. We raised standards for schools, teachers, and diplomas, reduced mandates on local school divisions, enhanced teacher quality, and ended social promotion by funding significant reading intervention in third grade. This year, we established the Opportunity Educational Institution to turn around chronically failing schools. We implemented A-F school report cards for greater transparency. We provided the first pay raise in five years, and strategic compensation for teachers, revised the teacher tenure laws, authorized Teach For America, and reduced red tape for school divisions. Additionally, we increased the portion of the education budget going to classroom instruction from 58% to 64%.

We are seeing the results of our reforms. Nearly nine out of 10 ninth graders starting in the fall of 2009 earned a diploma within four years, a 7.8 percent increase since 2008. The statewide dropout rate fell to 5.9 percent for the class of 2013, compared with 6.5 percent for the class of 2012. And, reading scores for Virginia's fourth graders have greatly improved, to almost 10 percent higher than the national average.

Our 2014-2016 biennial budget includes more than \$500 million for local school divisions to support the rebenchmarking of the Standards of Quality, accounting for the growth in student enrollment and increased teacher retirement costs. We included \$20 million to bolster declining Literary Fund reserves for school construction loans. Recognizing that math and reading are critical building blocks of success, we will invest \$3.7 million in underperforming schools by providing additional math and reading specialists. We will provide \$2 million to expand innovative programs such as Communities in Schools, PluggedinVA, Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, and Virginia Center for Excellence in Teaching to enhance the chances for success of our most at-risk students. And finally, \$1.5 million is provided for new school safety personnel.

I want to thank Majority Leader Kirk Cox, Senator Ryan McDougle and former Secretary of Education Jim Dyke and many other legislators and constituent groups for their leadership in improving public education.

Higher Education

Continuing our four-year effort to make college more affordable and accessible for Virginia students, we are including \$183.1 million in new support for colleges and universities.

This new funding will help achieve the goals of our excellent blueprint in the “Top Jobs” legislation (Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011) which I introduced and you unanimously passed. This legislation put the state on the path to generating 100,000 additional degrees and certifications over a 15 year period, reducing the growth of tuition, and enhancing job growth. Already 14,000 new slots have been added, and the past two years have seen the lowest average increases in tuition in over a decade.

Of great importance, this budget also finalizes the new higher education funding formula based on enrollment growth, initiatives, incentives, research, financial aid, productivity, and other critical “Top Jobs” goals, and I thank the Council of Presidents, HEAC and SCHEV for input in getting this reform done. Please tread lightly and thoughtfully before tweaking!

Included in the \$183.1 million of new funding is \$32.4 million to support a variety of higher education-related purposes, including raising the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) to Virginia residents attending private from \$3,100 to \$3,300, the highest grant in history. We are funding expanded workforce development initiatives through the Virginia Community College System and our regional higher education centers, and supporting cost saving higher education consortiums such as the 4-VA Partnership with Cisco and the Virtual Library of Virginia.

Over \$150 million goes to our public higher education institutions. The new formula dedicates \$45 million (30 percent) to base operations and financial aid, while \$105 million (70 percent) is directed towards incentivizing stronger performance. Of the \$45 million, \$13.5 million is dedicated to base operations to help underfunded institutions, and \$31.5 million goes to financial aid programs and support for both low- and middle-income students.

Of the \$105 million given to incentivize performance, \$21 million (20 percent) will be provided for enrollment growth to support the 100,000 degree goal, \$63 million (60 percent) for incentive funding in support of the goals of the “Top Jobs” Act, and \$21 million (20 percent) for research and initiatives. The initiative funding provides resources for cancer, Parkinson’s disease, brain, and movement disorder research at leading research universities.

Medicaid

Over the past four years, we have stressed more accountability and transparency in our Medicaid programs, which continue to be the fastest growing major program in our operating budget, now at 21% of General Fund spending. Agreeing that Medicaid reform was urgently needed last session, you formed the Medicaid Innovation and Reform and Commission (MIRC). The MIRC is ensuring that substantial measurable cost saving reform has been implemented prior to consideration of Medicaid expansion.

The forecast for Medicaid calls for an additional \$674 million in general fund appropriations in the 2014-16 biennium. However, as enrollment continues to slow, the projected expenditures are expected to increase by 6.6 percent in FY 2015, which is down from 8.5 percent in FY 2013, and a projected 7.3 percent in FY 2014. Also, there is a \$68 million cash balance in the Health Care Fund to partially offset the increase in the Medicaid forecast. My budget also nets \$75 million in savings by continuing prior year reductions for the teaching

hospitals and withholding the inflation increase for all hospitals until FY 2016. While the Medicaid forecast does include some funding for an anticipated increased enrollment from the federal exchange, we have seen little impact due to the major exchange implementation issues.

Major reforms for behavioral health and integrated care for individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid are underway, and I thank Dr. Hazel for spearheading these cost savings reforms. Virginia must achieve structural reforms that bend the cost curve before we decide to expand Medicaid. Therefore, my budget continues the operation of the MIRC and also includes language that sunsets any potential Medicaid expansion on June 30, 2016, in order to allow a full evaluation of Medicaid reform efforts and whether Virginia can afford expansion.

Adoption

We must also do more for young people in need of a loving, “forever” home to call their own. I have included several initiatives aimed at enhancing adoption for foster care children, a policy that will save great heartache and vast state resources in the future. I’m delighted to announce today that our yearlong campaign to place 1,000 foster kids in adoptive homes stands at 977 – a great success.

I have provided \$16.2 million to cover the biennial cost of providing foster care and adoption payments, including a three percent rate increase. Beginning in FY 2016, funds are provided to expand foster care and adoption subsidies to age 21 for the most vulnerable youth, following the development of a comprehensive implementation plan. The state will begin easing the burden on local departments by negotiating adoption agreements on their behalf. Thank you to Secretaries Kelly and Hazel for leading this heartwarming effort.

Department of Justice Settlement – Developmental/Intellectual Disability Services

The settlement of the federal complaint relating to our citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities requires new investment of \$98.5 million. The majority of the funding, or \$78.8 million, is for waiver slots authorized in the current biennium. I have budgeted \$45.4 million to provide 750 new intellectual and developmental disability Medicaid waiver slots, including 175 slots designated for individuals discharging from state-operated training centers.

We continue to build up community services by providing \$19.3 million to expand crisis stabilization services for adults and children, and for support for individuals and families living in the community.

Recognizing the complexity of transitioning individuals with exceptional medical and behavioral needs, I have included \$2.8 million to provide “bridge funding” to assure those individuals’ needs are met in the community while a full waiver review is being completed.

Closure of Southside Virginia Training Center and Northern Virginia Training Center will provide the state a net savings of \$54.0 million.

Mental Health Initiative

As I announced Tuesday, we have included \$38.3 million to strengthen the behavioral health service delivery system. There is a clear need for additional community and crisis mental health resources and supports.

The new funding includes \$17.5 million for community-based mental health programs, with \$7.5 million dedicated to increasing mental health outpatient services for older teens and young adults transitioning out of high school and into adulthood. We are also building six new secure crisis intervention assessment centers each year at biennial cost of \$5.4 million, and increasing access to telepsychiatry by investing \$1.7 million in new technology.

To address the needs of those with serious and persistent mental illness, I have included \$2.8 million to add two new Programs of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) who will provide intensive clinical outreach and support to reduce crises and hospitalization, bringing the total number of PACT programs to 21 statewide.

I have funded proposed legislation to increase the temporary detention order period from 48 hours to 72 hours at a cost of \$2.9 million. I will also propose legislation to add an additional two hours to the period of time a person can be held on an emergency custody order.

Safety Net

Our budget includes steady or improved funding for Virginia's health safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

The budget begins the phase-out of the inappropriate transfers to the general fund from the Trauma Center Fund and the Emergency Medical Services Fund that began in FY 2011, transfers we deemed necessary to buffer the state's finances during the great recession. These funds assist hospitals in providing expansive medical care to victims of trauma and provide grants to support fire departments, rescue squads and other first responders. It is my hope you will continue to phase out all transfers to the general fund and to utilize monies for their intended purposes.

This budget also provides \$7.2 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program to provide access to life-saving medications for the treatment of HIV and related illnesses for low-income clients. Enrollment in the program now exceeds 4,900, the highest number in the history of the program.

Homelessness

I have also budgeted \$4 million annually for the Housing Trust Fund, and \$500,000 for rapid rehousing, to build on our great success over the last four years in reducing homelessness by 16%.

Public Safety

Public safety is one of the top priorities of government. We now have one of the lowest crime rates in the country because of our nearly two decades of effective criminal justice reforms.

We have provided new funding that supports local law enforcement. We added \$21.3 million to the “599” program which provides financial assistance to localities with a qualified police department.

We have invested in innovative, effective prisoner re-entry initiatives and implemented interdisciplinary approaches that improve successful reintegration of offenders back into their communities. As a result, Virginia now has the second lowest recidivism rate in the country at 23.4%. About 90% of offenders will leave jail or prison, and we want more law abiding citizens and fewer victims. I have also included \$440,000 to increase staffing to support expedited approval of the restoration of civil rights for qualified persons.

I have provided authorization to fill 25 judicial vacancies across the state based on workload and current availability of existing funding in the Judiciary.

Staffing Issues and Career Development

We also provided \$3.0 million over the biennium to fund 62 law enforcement sheriff deputies in localities where we have seen population growth. Additionally, a total of \$3.2 million is provided to help alleviate overcrowding at certain local and regional jails. To improve retention, this budget adds \$1.5 million over the biennium to provide for career development for correctional and constitutional officers. Importantly, we also provided a two percent salary increase for entry level (grade 7 and 8) deputy sheriff positions for a total of \$9.3 million over the biennium, and salary increases for our Circuit Court Clerks I and II for little over \$860,000. We must be able to competitively hire great people.

Juvenile Justice

Over the last four years, we have identified countless new efficiencies in our state agencies. Due to the decreasing juvenile population, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) will cease to operate Culpeper Juvenile Correctional facility on July 1, 2014, and transfer juveniles currently housed at Culpeper to Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center. Under this repurposing proposal, the Department of Corrections (DOC) will take over the Culpeper facility and use it to house female offenders, a population that is forecast to increase. \$25.1 million savings from DJJ will be used by DOC over the biennium to run the facility.

The transfer of the facility to DOC will mitigate layoffs of DJJ staff, and the local community will not lose jobs and economic benefits. This is smart government.

Fort Monroe

And it is smart government to help ensure a successful future for a national landmark, and a Virginia treasure, Fort Monroe. “Freedom’s Fortress” occupies a prominent place in Virginia and American history. Last summer, ownership and responsibility for approximately 300 acres of the Fort transferred back to the Commonwealth. My budget provides about \$13 million for operations and \$22.5 million in bonds to address the substantial infrastructure needs at the Fort. These investments are critical to the long term financial success of Fort Monroe, and its preservation for our citizens.

Natural Resources/Chesapeake Bay

We are committed to a clean and vibrant Chesapeake Bay, a Virginia economic engine. Over the last 30 years, we have made substantial progress in reducing pollution flows into the Bay. I thank you for supporting the major bond package I proposed last session for critically needed improvements at wastewater treatment plants, combined sewer overflows, and stormwater infrastructure. This year’s budget deposits \$31.5 million of the budget surplus into the Water Quality Improvement Fund to support nutrient reduction programs, including almost \$20 million to continue pollution reduction efforts in agricultural programs.

Last Session we provided \$35 million for the new Stormwater Local Assistance Fund to help localities reduce non-point source pollution from stormwater. This new program has been successful, as applications for funding from the program exceed the amount provided last Session, so I am proposing an additional \$20 million in bonds.

We will also continue supporting the exciting resurgence of Virginia’s job-creating oyster industry by continuing to provide \$2 million each year, and we will help the commercial fishing industry, and ensure the survival of a very special part of our Commonwealth by continuing funding for the long-awaited seawall and jetty to protect Tangier Island’s endangered harbor.

Transportation

After our major success in addressing our long term transportation infrastructure needs last session, I focused this year on some important Port investments. The ports are a major economic engine for all the state. We have the only ports on the East Coast capable of handling the new giant cargo ships expected with the soon to be completed expansion of the Panama Canal. We must keep this competitive advantage. Therefore, I have included \$6.5 million to address the study requirements to allow additional dredging at the Norfolk harbor, as well as deepening the channel on the Elizabeth River.

Recently we have seen new Port management, and improved performance and accountability and you approved the Port of Virginia Economic and Infrastructure Development Zone Grant Fund to encourage companies to locate along the transportation corridors leading to and from the ports. To build upon the \$1 million used to initially capitalize this Fund, I have provided an additional \$1.5 million to grow this program.

General Government

Revenue Stabilization Fund

We continue to face great fiscal uncertainty from Washington resulting from our high concentrations of federal government employment and procurement. Thus, increasing our cash reserves to enhance budgetary flexibility and liquidity is a must. Our budget fully funds the mandatory deposit to the Revenue Stabilization Fund of \$243.2 million in FY 2015, and an additional \$60.0 million for the FY 2016 deposit, resulting in a fund balance exceeding \$1 billion by end of the biennium. These deposits more than triple the size of the Rainy Day Fund between the end of fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2016, and create the fourth highest total in history.

State Benefits Funding

We worked together to strengthen the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) in the 2012 Session for the hundreds of thousands of Virginians who depend on it. Those reforms required a phase-in of the full contribution rates certified by the VRS Board by fiscal year 2019. My budget fully funds their commitment by providing an additional \$315.3 million for the general fund share of state and teacher pension benefits, representing funding at 80 percent of the full pension contribution rates, as well as funding the 10-year scheduled payback of deferred employee retirement contributions from fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

Due to our reforms in 2012, and large deposits made the past two years, the funded status of the plans is expected to rise in 2014 for the first time since 2008. We are well on our way to ensuring that our future obligations to our public employees are met.

Full funding for the state's other post-employment benefits, including the retiree health care credit, employee group life insurance and the Virginia Sickness and Disability Program at the actuarially recommended rates is also provided. An additional \$30 million has been included for increases in these benefit obligations.

The internal management of the state's pension funds VRS has saved \$11.4 million annually in outside management fees. My budget provides an additional \$4.2 million to further expand VRS's internal asset management capacity. VRS currently manages one-third of its \$60.2 billion in assets internally and continues to outperform internal investment benchmarks, and achieved a return of 11.9 percent during the past year, increasing the Fund value by \$5.2 billion.

State Health Insurance Fund

To address the projected increase in the state's health insurance program, I have proposed \$24.3 million in fiscal year 2015 and \$58.9 million in fiscal year 2016. I also propose several program enhancements to increase satisfaction with medical care while reducing long-term costs.

First, the budget includes start-up funding for a new employee health center near Capitol Square to allow state employees access to convenient healthcare. This center will enhance disease management and wellness, improve compliance, increase productivity through reduced absenteeism, reduce costs for primary/urgent care and drugs, and promote positive employee morale.

The second program change introduces value-based insurance design programs for asthma/Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and hypertension, by waiving out-of-pocket payments for certain drugs for employees who demonstrate compliance.

Capital

During the recent downturn, we invested in private sector job creation by addressing Virginia's infrastructure and facilities needs in transportation and higher education through the use of state supported debt. I believe we need to take a breather from issuing significant new debt until we have a better understanding of Virginia's future economy. A number of capital projects presently authorized for planning are not far enough along to provide a firm estimate for construction, so these projects would be better addressed in the 2015 General Assembly Session.

Thus, I am only recommending \$104 million in new debt for projects that primarily address life/safety and environmental issues, and \$123 million to address the ongoing maintenance needs of the state's aging facilities. Finally, I am including \$21 million of additional debt authorization to cover the equipment costs of new facilities coming online. I've included \$196.7 million to fund debt service on capital projects previously authorized, as well as the limited new projects. Through this conservative approach, the state can better ensure it stays within its debt capacity limits.

One important capital project that I recommend paying for with cash is the design and construction of a national slavery and freedom heritage site here in Richmond. I've included \$11 million for Lumpkins Pavilion, a slavery museum, and Richmond slave trail upgrades to ensure that we can teach the historic lessons of freedom to the world, and capitalize on the significant tourism opportunities this special project presents.

Over the past four years we have worked together to put the "Virginia Way" to work in building a "Commonwealth of Opportunity" for all Virginians. With your cooperation, we have gotten very good results for our citizens.

Unemployment has fallen from 7.4% to 5.6%. Over 172,000 net new jobs have been created, and we are the country's most business friendly state!

We passed the first long-term transportation funding plan in a generation.

Our colleges and universities are more affordable and accessible, and on the way to issuing 100,000 new degrees for Virginia students.

We reduced the future liability in our pension system by \$9 billion.

We've brought more innovation, accountability, and choice to our K-12 system and rewarded our excellent, hard-working teachers.

We've cared for the prisoners, the orphans, the hungry, the mentally ill, and the homeless, as the Scriptures say we must.

Today, as I enter my last weeks as governor, I sincerely thank you for your strong partnership, your warm friendship, and your can-do, results-oriented leadership. By any metric, Virginia is stronger today, and we left the campground better than we found it. Our economy is growing. Our schools, roads, pensions, people, natural resources, and jobs are stronger.

Now, as you consider this biennial budget, I ask that you keep this progress going and work with Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe and his team to accomplish even more in the years ahead.

During this special season of Christmas and Hanukkah, give your children, family and friends a longer hug. Thank a veteran, law enforcement officer or first responder for securing your freedoms. Give a helping hand to someone in need. And as you pray, thank God for the blessing of being a Virginian.

It's been the highest honor of my life to serve you as Governor. Thank you for a wonderful four years, God Bless the Commonwealth, and its remarkable people.